

Small Group Discussion Questions Jasper County

What is occurring in your communities which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- We have extended day programs for students and Boys and Girls Club.
- We are building two new facilities
- We have recruitment incentives
- We have staff development for teachers
- Pre-K program
- We have technology coaches
- We have mentoring program for new teachers
- We have an alternative and vocational program
- Developers are setting aside land for new schools in the areas in which they develop
- New schools under construction.
- Low wealth law suit set aside money for pre-K program.
- After – school tutorial program
- Technology assistance and program
- Career clusters
- Providing more services for ELS students
- Alternate ed. programs (ACE / TCL, EEDA, USC, OSHER – Adult Ed/ Cont. Ed.)
- Upgrading facilities (All new P2O) State of art technology.
- New Curriculum
- Early childhood advisory committee
- First Steps – Enhancing day cares
- Partnering with technical colleges
- Jasper County Neighbors United (per – school and after – school)
- Recognizing cultural diversity and values
- Programs that acknowledge academic and artistic potentials
- Involving faith – based communities
- Schools sponsor “Parent Nights” for reading, math, technology, etc.
- Parent university
- Scholarship grants for teachers to attain advanced degrees
- Center for excellence at USCB
- Virtual classrooms using hand – held computers and mobile technology labs.
- Schools media centers / homework center / after – school programs provide access to computers.

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Funding
- Retention of staff
- Parent support
- Transportation
- Community perception of schools and support
- Geography
- Communication between parents and community
- Social, economic, and racial barriers
- Teacher turn – over
- Affordable housing
- Shortage of certified teachers and administration
- Transportation (rural)
- Lack of community activities
- Parental apathy
- Recruitment/ Retention (teachers and administrators)
- Competitive salary
- Diversity of community
- Community apathy
- Communication (parents, teachers, community) external / internal
- Equitable funding (state and local)
- Teacher retention/ accountability
- Community perception of public ed.
- “Latch - key” Children
- Lack of adequate funding for public libraries
- Lack of adequate comprehensive community centers addressing technology, parenting, literacy, community needs, recreation, cultural awareness, celebrations

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- We must provide support to the entire family not just the student. Open facilities to parents for higher education and vocational skills.
- Increase efforts to recruit and retain qualified teachers.
- We need to increase training and staff development for novice teachers.
- Increase support from business community.

- Need to establish a cultural coalition between the community and school.
- Build more community support for schools
- Comprehensive/ capitol plan
- Build a comprehensive recreational program
- Comprehensive volunteer program
- Transportation
- Better incentives (salaries)
- Community support (buy – in public ed., advocates, volunteer)
- School as “center” of community (Adult ed. classes)
- Alternative ways of communication with public (website, cable, newsletters, newspaper, media...)
- Be proactive (funding, state and local officials “truly”)
- Comprehensive community centers
- Business involvement in recruitment and retention of teachers
- Better use of “lottery funds”
- Expanded Wrap – Around Services (Mental Health, Collaborative efforts among agencies, and child and family services.
- Strong volunteer and mentoring programs

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.